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\* CONFIDENTIAL \*  
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MESSAGE CENTER

OTTC ZFF4 RUESQIA1328 0491640

IMMEDIATE

O 181624Z FEB 81 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9504  
 RUESLM/AMEMBASSY LIMA NIACT IMMEDIATE 5485  
 RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA NIACT IMMEDIATE 559  
 INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 1631  
 RUESNA/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE 2399  
 RUESGY/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE 5236  
 RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE  
 BT

CONFIDENTIAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 1328

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PBCR, PE, EC

SUBJECT: MISSING HELICOPTER SITREP NO.1

REF: QUITO 1311

1. AS OF 1000 LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 18, AIR SEARCH FOR OBSERVER COMMISSION MISSING UH-1H HELICOPTER CONTINUES. THIS MORNING, TWO ECUADORIAN AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS AND THE U.S. C-130 SEARCHED IN THE VICINITY OF YANGANA, LAST KNOWN POSITION OF THE MISSING HELICOPTER. CLOUDY WEATHER IMPEDED SEARCH EFFORTS THIS MORNING, BUT REPORTS FROM LOJA INDICATE CLOUD COVER OVER AREA MAY BREAK UP LATER TODAY. TWO ECUADOREAN ARMY PATROLS ARE CONTINUING THEIR GROUND SEARCH

ACTION

(U,6,7,8)

INFO NIDS(\*) SAGA(\*) J3:NMCC(\*) J5(\*)  
 IADB(\*) RDJTF:LO(\*) SECDEF:(\*) SECDEF(\*) USDP(\*\*)  
 NMIC(\*) SWS(\*) AT(\*) VP-A2 FRD(\*) DE(\*) DB-2B(\*)  
 DB-3E(\*) DB-4A(\*) DB-5(\*) DIA FILE(\*) ARMY(5)  
 NAVY(5) AIR FORCE(3)

TOTAL COPIES REQUIRED

13

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MCN=81049/17432 TOR=81049/1708Z TAD=81049/1710Z CDSN=PRB594

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IN AREA.

2. SEARCH AREA IS ABOUT FIVE MILES BY TEN MILES (I.E., 50 SQUARE MILES). THE AREA IS EXTREMELY RUGGED, RANGING BETWEEN 600 METERS AND 3000 METERS IN ALTITUDE. THERE IS FREQUENT RAIN THIS TIME OF YEAR.

3. THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL WERE ABCARD THE UH-1H:

[REDACTED] CREW CHIEF. NO FOREIGN PERSONNEL ON BOARD.  
SUPPORT GROUP AT LOJA BELIEVED THEY PICKED UP VICE  
OF [REDACTED] ONCE ON FEBRUARY 17, ABOUT 1200 LCCAL TIME.

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4. AS OF 2000 LOCAL TIME FEBRUARY 17, REMAINING U.S. HELICOPTER IN LOJA WAS TAKEN OFF OBSERVER COMMISSION DUTY AFTER JOINT DECISION OF USSOUTHCOM AND HELICOPTER CREW. REASONS ARE THAT HELICOPTER IS BEING USED FOR SEARCH, AND PILOTS DO NOT RECOMMEND FLYING OBSERVER COMMISSION MISSIONS UNLESS THERE IS A SECOND HELICOPTER TO SERVE AS WING MAN. HELICOPTER WILL NOT RESUME OBSERVER COMMISSION SERVICE UNTIL ORDERED TO DO SO.

5. MISSING HELICOPTER SUPPLIED WITH ONE JUNGLE SURVIVAL KIT, FIVE GALLONS OF WATER, ONE CASE C-RATIONS, FLIGHT JACKETS, ONE PONCHO LINER, AND ONE WORKING PRC-90 SURVIVAL RADIO.

[REDACTED]  
GONZALEZ  
BT

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